Rochester Energy Commission

July 8th, 2020

Welcome Back!

Agenda

- Old Business
  - EarthFest
  - District Energy Study, City Council Study Session
  - Web Page Documents
    - 2019 & 2020 EAP Priorities
  - Budget
- New Business
  - GreenStep Cities, Step 4 & Step 5 Designation
  - Sustainable States Network, Community Energy Challenge
  - Transportation Update
- Priorities – Actions and Strategies Discussion

Old Business

- EarthFest
- District Energy Study, City Council Study Session
- Webpage Documents, Review
  - 2019 & 2020 EAP Priorities
  - Meet the Energy Commission
  - Watt Does It Take to Power Rochester?
  - REC Education Brochure

New Business

- GreenStep Cities, Step 4 & Step 5 Designation
- Sustainable States Network, Community Energy Challenge
- Transportation Update

GreenStep Cities

The GreenStep Cities Program is a voluntary challenge, assistance and recognition program to help cities achieve their sustainability and quality-of-life goals. Launched in 2010, the program has five levels of recognition:

STEP 1

Commit to working on implementing sustainability best practices through a city council resolution.

STEP 2

Implement 4, 6, or 8 best practices depending on a city's GreenStep Category designation.

STEP 3

Implement 8, 12, or 16 best practices and complete a handful of specific high-impact actions, depending on a city's GreenStep Category designation.

STEP 4

Measure and report a minimum number of core and optional metrics for the previous calendar year or the most recent available data.

STEP 5

Demonstrate improvement in three eligible metrics measured in Step 4, from one data year to the next.

GreenStep Cities

The GreenStep 29 Best Practices

Buildings & Lighting
- Efficient Existing Public Buildings
- Efficient Existing Private Buildings
- New Green Buildings
- Efficient Outdoor Lighting and Signals
- Building Redevelopment

Land Use
- Comprehensive, Climate and Energy Plans
- Resilient City Growth
- Mixed Uses
- Efficient Highway-and-Auto-Oriented Development
- Design for Natural Resource Conservation

Transportation
- Living Streets
- Mobility Options
- Efficient City Fleets
- Demand-Side Travel Planning

GreenStep Cities

The GreenStep 29 Best Practices

Environmental Management
- Sustainable Planning
- Community Forests and Soils
- Stormwater Management
- Parks and Trails
- Surface Water
- Efficient Water and Wastewater Systems
- Septic Systems
- Sustainable Consumption and Waste
- Local Air Quality

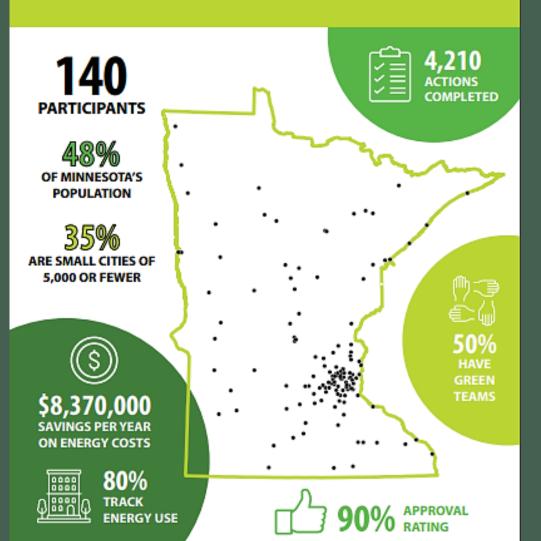**Resilient Economic and Community Development**
- Benchmarks and Community Engagement
- Green Business Development
- Renewable Energy
- Local Food
- Business Synergies and Eco Districts
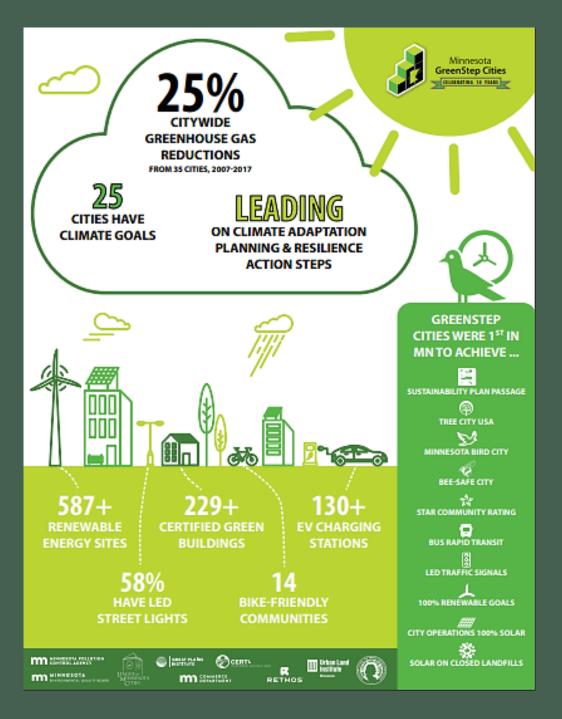- Climate Adaptation and Community Resilience

10 YEARS

OF IMPACTS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS
with Minnesota GreenStep Cities

Minnesota GreenStep Cities
CELEBRATING 10 YEARS

4,210 ACTIONS COMPLETED

140 PARTICIPANTS

48% OF MINNESOTA'S POPULATION

35% ARE SMALL CITIES OF 5,000 OR FEWER

50% HAVE GREEN TEAMS

$8,370,000 SAVINGS PER YEAR ON ENERGY COSTS

80% TRACK ENERGY USE

90% APPROVAL RATING

25% CITYWIDE GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTIONS FROM 35 CITIES, 2007-2017

Minnesota GreenStep Cities
CELEBRATING 10 YEARS

25 CITIES HAVE CLIMATE GOALS

LEADING ON CLIMATE ADAPTATION PLANNING & RESILIENCE ACTION STEPS

587+ RENEWABLE ENERGY SITES

229+ CERTIFIED GREEN BUILDINGS

130+ EV CHARGING STATIONS

58% HAVE LED STREET LIGHTS

14 BIKE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES

GREENSTEP CITIES WERE 1ST IN MN TO ACHIEVE ...

- SUSTAINABILITY PLAN PASSAGE
- TREE CITY USA
- MINNESOTA BIRD CITY
- BEE-SAFE CITY
- STAR COMMUNITY RATING
- BUS RAPID TRANSIT
- LED TRAFFIC SIGNALS
- 100% RENEWABLE GOALS
- CITY OPERATIONS 100% SOLAR
- SOLAR ON CLOSED LANDFILLS

Sustainable State Network

The Sustainable States Community Energy Challenge will support 30 communities in five states to assess their clean energy goals and initiatives, compare across similarly sized cities, assess future initiatives, and get support and assistance as a part of a city cohort in each state. The six communities in each state will be a part of an in-state peer cohort and will receive technical assistance in completing a priority clean energy initiative. .

Sustainable State Network

The first phase will run through December 2020 and will include:

Community Energy Scoring: The Local Clean Energy Self-Scoring Tool measures a range of municipal actions including local government operations, community-wide initiatives, buildings policies, energy and water utilities, and transportation programs and policies.

Sustainable State Network

In-State Peer Network: The six participating municipalities in each state will be a part of an instate peer cohort that will together use the scorecard information to assess the status of each municipality. Each state peer cohort will identify at least one project or new policy initiative for each participating municipality that would benefit from cohort collaboration and the peer network will work together to make progress.

Technical Assistance: GreenStep Cities and ACEEE will provide technical assistance in evaluating the results of the scorecard and will support project and policy implementation. Each participating municipality is expected to commit to taking steps toward implementation of at least one policy initiative as identified by the in-state peer network review of Scorecard analysis
for each state.

Transportation Update

- Tracking document of all transportation-related actions

- Remove items from list that have been accomplished, keep ones that are in process or development, and have a discussion on remaining items on if they are still relevant or if they are opportunities for the Commission to weigh in on or guide policy.

EAP Priorities

2020 Priorities – 3 given, 7 voted on
- **Given Priorities**
  - Communications Strategy
  - Revisit EAP goals
  - Generation Portfolio, GHG emissions
- **Voted Priorities - Actions and Strategies**
  - Power Generation and Supply, Community Education
  - Power Generation and Supply, Expansion of Behind the Meter Generation
  - Buildings, Sustainable Building Policies
  - Buildings, Retro-commissioning
  - Transportation, Develop transportation corridors, nodes and parking to minimize VMT
  - Transportation, Electric charging/solar stations
  - Transportation, Increased public transit to reduce single occupancy trips

EAP Priorities

Given Priorities

- **Community Education:**
  - Determine best methods for communications and outreach
  - Determine best plan for delivering communications, materials, education, etc.
  - Website updates and organization
- **EAP:**
  - Review the goals within the EAP
  - Determine if they are still relevant
  - Do any need to be updated or removed?
- **Generation Portfolio:**
  - Create the baseline inventory for energy use and GHG emissions
  - Determine the City's operational GHG emissions and savings

Next Meeting

August 12th, 2020
- **Discuss Future Agenda Items**